



***„Food is Value”- Forum Against
Food Loss and Waste
Framework for Action
Hungary***

Introduction

According to estimates by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), one third of food intended for human consumption gets lost. When seen against a series of problems, including the scarcity of natural resources, poverty, famine and a protracted financial and economic crisis, it becomes clear that this matter requires union and solutions on a global, European and national scale.

The need to combat food waste has been given top most priority in the current sustainability debate as confirmed by the goal of the 193 UN member states to halve food waste. The Member States have defined the latter in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations (UN) has stressed the need to take action at all levels of the value creation chain ranging from producers to suppliers and consumers.

Hungarian Minister for Agriculture Sándor Fazekas proposed an EU level debate on food loss and wastage at the Council Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in July 2013. Hungary requested the European Commission to develop plans jointly with the competent international organisations and other stakeholders so that we can get a clear picture of the global situation and take appropriate action in our best interests.

The Ministry of Rural Development and the Hungarian Food Bank Association have jointly launched a forum in Hungary to reduce food wastage and loss.

By signing the Declaration and joining the Forum, the signatories commit to a non-binding agreement to reduce food waste and food losses to a significant extent in the areas most relevant to them in the food chain. Through the Forum, we aim to make a contribution to the realisation of SDG 12.3 by halving the per capita food waste by 2030, also supported by EU member states as formulated in the Circular Economy package.

The Forum welcomes companies, non-profit organisations, administrative bodies, production chain operators and their industrial/professional organisations as well as organisations from the sectors of research & development and education to participate.

Main goals and priorities of the Forum

Main goals: Participants of the Forum commit to actively reducing food loss and food waste;

- Highlight the importance of this current issue and form public opinion and attitude;
- Enhance knowledge management and flow of information among all concerned;
- Identify issues and possible solutions along the whole supply chain from primary production to consumers and valorisation of unavoidable waste;

- Identify and develop , good practices Hungary and abroad. Promote and adapt these for wider uptake in Hungary.

Main priorities for actions are:

- Set a definitive baseline for current levels of household and supply chain food waste in Hungary Adaptation of the food waste hierarchy, especially the TOP 3 levels: reduction, redistribution and promoting measures which move food valorization
- Demonstrate that a voluntary approach can lead to supply chain waste reduction without the need for additional legislation, creating a healthy balance of regulation and self-regulation
- Raising awareness of food waste issues and forming of consumer attitude
- Identifying and addressing hotspots in retail supply chains to prevent waste
- Working with the hospitality and tourism industry to improve practices and consumer behaviour to prevent waste
- Engaging the entire food supply chain including the recruitment of further Forum members

General principles

- **Open participation:** The FA will be open to all organizations wishing to participate. Members may have different ambition levels that they can/want to achieve. Members can participate in the Forum's activities as "acting organizations", which (can) take active roles with concrete tasks and targets in one or more projects launched under the umbrella of the Forum, or "supporters", that support the Forum's work occasionally (e.g. in projects or dissemination activities) but must not necessarily have concrete tasks and targets.

Definition of Food Waste: To ensure a common understanding of the subject matter we use the definition defined by the EU FUSIONS project (www.eu-fusions.org): "Food waste is any food, and inedible parts of food, removed from the food supply chain to be recovered or disposed (including composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bio-energy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea)".

Drink and liquid waste, fish discarded to sea and waste of any materials that are ready for harvest, but which are not harvested, are included in FUSIONS's definition of food waste, making its perimeter wider and broader than many other existing definitions. FUSIONS also consider inedible parts of food (e.g. skin, bones...) as food waste in order to support the development of resource efficient and sustainable food systems in the EU.

- **Governance:** All member organizations are invited to take part in Forum roundtable meetings once a year in order to discuss progress made, current events, as well as potential collaborations. Working groups will be formed for detailed topics accordingly.

A Steering Committee is convened that is representative of the different stakeholder groups. The Steering Committee determines policies and direction,

and to also lead communication with all participants. In addition it discusses the progress made in the main projects as well as the agenda for roundtable meetings. Steering Committee meetings take place 3-4 times a year.

- **External communication:** The Forum is to be externally promoted and published. The participating organizations are to be listed on the Forums web site and other communication material. All Forum members are invited to support external communication activities using their own communication channels.
- **Legality:** The Forum is not a legal person. Legally every member of the Forum acts of its behalf.
- **Funding:** The Forum's activities can be funded by different sources, including EU funded projects, such as the REFRESH project, national development and innovation funds and members own resources (on a voluntary basis).
- **Confidentiality:** The Forum collects and handles the information of the individual organizations involved with utmost confidentiality. Unless agreed differently with specific members only aggregated results will be discussed and shown within the group and published outside.

Project targets and Progress Measurement

The fulfillment of the Forum's main goals is primarily reached by the launch and execution of various projects. Projects management and participation is based on a voluntary basis among Forum members.

Main project targets are:

- Setting a definitive baseline for current levels of food waste
 - Adapting methodologies / good practices
 - Research and innovation projects in supply chains
 - Redistribution development especially by involving new segments and broadening redistribution channel capacity
 - Public awareness raising
 - Valorization projects
 - Other new ideas supporting the priorities
- **Project scoping:** Any projects should be launched and managed in such a way that it suits the participating organizations and provides the greatest possible value to the fulfillment of the Forum's main goals. Based on the individual project plans the participating parties are involved in reducing food waste and food loss.

- **Objectives:** The identified project priority aspects should be assigned quantitative and / or qualitative targets, including time frame and a clearly defined baseline. It is also possible to have a quantitative target with qualitative indicators.
- **Activities:** Project participants undertake changes that contribute to the overall objectives. Participant can have different tasks or targets. The project manager discusses with each participant the activities with the greatest impact in their own field of action and the actors that could/should assist them with the implementation of the activities. Participants are to prepare a common project plan.
- **Implementation criteria:** The objectives and the related activities to achieve them should address the main priorities. The activities should therefore lead to improvements in at least one of the priority items. This means that a member organization should start activities where it has the most significant potential for improvement, even if it is outside its core business activities.
- **Impact assessment:** Impact assessment can either be carried out qualitatively or quantitatively. Measurement methods are discussed within the project group and the minimum measurement standards defined. The possible measurement methods may be based on the Food Loss & Waste Protocol of the World Resources Institute.
- **Project plan:** A project plan, based on the target definition and impact assessment is designed and presented to the Steering Committee. Execution should be analysed at least once every year to gauge its achievement. Important: This is a voluntary agreement without sanctions.

Tasks of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is a selected team of Forum members representing the main segments of the food chain, and relevant main national authorities and NGOs. The Steering Committee

- Assists in providing direction for the Forum through their expertise contributions
- Sets the main goals and priorities for the Forum activities, to which the signatories undertake to contribute;
- Changes the Framework of Agreement document if necessary
- Provides support and offers advice in the implementation of projects
- Facilitates communication with all Forum members
- Spreads the goals and values of the Forum within Hungary and in the EU
- Improves organization structure in order to achieve the most efficient operation

Tasks of the Secretariat

The Secretariat tasks of the Forum are handled by the Hungarian Food Bank Association (HFA)

Providing the secretariat support includes:

- Managing the registration process
- Facilitating and monitoring projects
- Managing internal and external communication
- Management of webpage and knowledge base
- Organising meetings and events
- Managing international relations, especially works together with the EU REFRESH project (www.eu-refresh.org) where four countries (Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain) were chosen to implement similar collaborative approaches.

HFA is responsible for the review of progress and taking account of confidentiality.